



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 01 November 2007

Current Nationwide



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- *USA Today* reports that, nationwide, more than 8,000 lakes, rivers and bays are compromised by mercury's toxic effects. However, the electric power industry insists that it is behaving responsibly by retrofitting old plants and building new ones with pollution-control equipment. (See items [2](#))
- The *New York Times* reports that pharmaceutical ingredients exported from China are often made by chemical companies that are neither certified nor inspected by Chinese drug regulators. American and Chinese health officials held their first high-level meeting to discuss the issue in May, and hope to sign a memorandum of agreement in December. (See item [21](#))

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *October 31, Market Watch* – (National) **Crude futures hit new record high of \$94 a barrel.** “Crude-oil futures surged to a new record high of \$94 a barrel on Wednesday after the Energy Department reported a surprise drop in U.S. crude inventories and a sharp fall in refinery capacity in the latest week. A possible rate cut on Wednesday afternoon from the Federal Reserve could further weaken the dollar and lift oil prices.”
Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/crude-futures-hit-new-high/story.aspx?guid=%7BF078CE7B-5277-4358-9356-7A049EBBAFA6%7D>

2. *October 31, USA Today* – (National) **Power plants are focus of drive to cut mercury.** Nationwide, more than 8,000 lakes, rivers and bays are compromised by mercury's toxic effects. In 2005, about 500 coal-burning power plants emitted 48.3 tons of mercury, an increase of 1 percent since 2000, according to a *USA Today* analysis of the Environmental Protection Agency's Toxics Release Inventory. Mercury emissions from all other industrial sources were collectively down 33 percent in the same period. The electric power industry, which has plans to build an additional 153 coal-fired plants by 2030, insists that it is behaving responsibly by retrofitting old plants and building new ones with pollution-control equipment that will remove much of the mercury, with other pollutants, from flue gas.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2007-10-29-mercury-cover_N.htm

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *October 31, Saint Cloud Times* – (Minnesota) **Team sent to assess reaction of chemicals.** St. Cloud Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Team in Minnesota responded at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday to Melrose Dairy Proteins, where an accidental mixing of 30 gallons of biocide, a cleaner-sanitizer, and sodium hydrochloride created a toxic gas. No one was injured and the building did not have to be evacuated.

Source:

<http://www.sctimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071031/NEWS01/110300056/1009>

4. *October 31, The Bennington Banner* – (Vermont) **Factory to clean nearby soil.** Vermont officials presented a plan to remediate tetrachloroethene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE) contamination at the Energizer plant in Bennington, Vermont on Tuesday night, saying the aggressive method chosen should capture enough of the contamination to meet state standards. Since January, Energizer has been working with Environmental Resource Management, a Connecticut-based firm, and state officials to test the area for the presence of the solvents, which were found on both the grounds of the plant and in homes close to the plant. The idea behind the plan is to blow air into the ground and then suck it back out to help cleanse the soil, according to the Energizer Plant Manager. The second step of the plan will use an "aggressive" new method of injecting steam into the ground to cause the chemical contamination to rise to the surface and evaporate.

Source: http://www.benningtonbanner.com/localnews/ci_7327361

5. *October 31, Local 12 Cincinnati* – (Ohio) **Chemical leak at plant in Reading.** On Wednesday afternoon, emergency crews were on the scene of a chemical leak in at Reading, Ohio plant that produces specialty chemicals used to manufacture PVC pipe, vinyl siding and windows, decking, plastic bottles and credit cards. Officials said employees were opening a rail car when a high level of chlorine was detected. An automated system shut the leak off after only a few seconds. The leak was contained, and no injuries were reported

Source:

http://www.local12.com/content/breaking_news/story.aspx?content_id=651ba080-aeca-

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *October 31, The Daily Herald* – (Illinois) **Angry West Chicago residents seek answers from EPA.** Owners of up to 100 West Chicago properties may have to have their land dug up for the third time in three decades due to radioactive thorium contamination. Homeowners confronted the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Tronox, the current incarnation of the company responsible for the contamination, at a meeting on Tuesday. A project manager with the EPA said the contamination may be as shallow as 6 inches below the surface. EPA staff is reviewing the records of hundreds of West Chicago properties to identify those that did not have basements tested. This summer thorium contamination was found in a basement, causing more than 300 times the radiation considered safe.

Source: <http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=67769>

7. *October 30, The Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Engineer guilty of hiding nuclear plant damage.** The Davis-Besse nuclear plant's former engineering design manager was convicted by a federal grand jury of misleading regulators into believing the plant along Lake Erie in Ohio was safe by concealing "the worst corrosion ever found at a U.S. reactor." He faces as much as five years in prison. A private contractor was acquitted by the same federal jury. "Prosecutors said the men lied in fall 2001 so the plant could delay a shutdown for a safety inspection. Months later, inspectors found an acid leak that had nearly eaten through the reactor's 6-inch-thick steel cap. It's not clear how close the plant was to an accident."

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21550374/>

Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *October 31, Defense News* – (California) **Pentagon industrial base shop sees no major fallout from California fires.** The Pentagon officials charged with monitoring the U.S. industrial base have concluded defense-related facilities in Southern California will make a quick recovery from the wildfires that tore through the region last week, meaning no major acquisition programs will be delayed. So far, defense companies contacted have reported they expect few production problems in the wake of the fires. Many contractors in the region have said they are working with employees whose homes have been damaged, but no contractor has said any programs will have to be pushed to the right. The Defense Contract Management Agency is monitoring the situation.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?F=3144738&C=america>

9. *October 31, PR Newswire* – (National) **SAIC to upgrade USAF air traffic control radio system.** "Science Applications International Corp. has won a new single-award contract from the General Services Administration to upgrade air traffic control radio systems for

the U.S. Air Force. The initial phase of contract performance will be performed on a time-and-materials basis, while later phases will be firm-fixed-price. The contract has a one-year base period, four one-year options and a ceiling value of more than \$80 million if all options are exercised. SAIC will provide engineering services to include recommending new radios and hardware, and procuring and installing equipment as required. The contract will allow the Air Force to completely upgrade its air traffic control radio systems with new technology that will help improve overall system availability and reduce long-term maintenance costs.”

Source:

<http://news.moneycentral.msn.com/provider/providerarticle.aspx?feed=PR&date=20071031&id=7729777>

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Banking and Finance Sector

10. *October 30, WSYR 9 Syracuse, New York* – (National) **YS alert: Wildfire donation e-mail scam.** The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) received reports from all over the country of an e-mail, which looks like it is from the IRS, asking recipients to donate to the victims of the California wildfires. The e-mail asks them to click on a link and fill out a donation form, but that it is just an avenue for scammers to obtain bank account information. Those who receive the email are urged to forward it to phishing@irs.gov and delete it.

Source:

http://www.9wsyr.com/content/news/your_stories/story.aspx?content_id=26ccd440-df0e-4215-ae3-3f04f079d79b

11. *October 30, KRGV 5 Brownsville, Texas* – (New York) **Senior alert: Reverse mortgage offers.** Officials released a warning for senior citizens who may receive offers for a specialized loan called a reverse mortgage. Under this type of mortgage, eligible homeowners are promised an up-front cash payout with no obligation to repay the loan and to live out the rest of their lives in their own homes with no monthly mortgage. However, the reality is that, although seniors are generally not required to repay these loans, once they pass away or permanently leave their homes, that property essentially belongs to the lender who can recoup the loan, fees and interest by selling the home after it is vacated. Homeowners who are considering a reverse mortgage need to know that these agreements significantly reduce or eliminate the inheritance that would have otherwise gone to their surviving loved ones. Seniors are urged to carefully consider the fine print before accepting the terms of a reverse mortgage. They should also consider hiring an attorney to help them review reverse mortgage documents. Finally, seniors interested in a reverse mortgage should be very skeptical of “mortgage consultants.” Some unscrupulous operators will insist that a home needs costly renovations in order for the homeowner to qualify for a loan. Seniors should be particularly wary of consultants who insist on using a specific contractor. Consumers who believe they have encountered a reverse mortgage scam should immediately contact the Office of the Attorney General.

Source: <http://www.newschannel5.tv/2007/10/30/981749/Senior-Alert--Reverse-Mortgage-Offers>

Transportation Sector

12. *October 31, USA Today* – (National) **Small boats seen as a terror threat.** The Homeland Security Department fears that the nation's 17 million small boats could be used in a nuclear attack or a lethal explosion at a U.S. port. The Homeland Security secretary said that he had ordered agency leaders to "raise the protection level with respect to small boats." The Coast Guard is seeking a new federal requirement that all boat operators carry identification wherever they are on the water and that would require state boating courses to teach security protocols such as avoiding cruise-ship terminals and military facilities. Presently, only Alabama requires boat operators to carry identification and all but three states require boater education. Moreover, the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office plans to test next year whether sensors on buoys and boats can detect radiation from a nuclear or radiological bomb on a small vessel. Although new mandates would apply to operators of state-registered boats — usually those with an engine — the Homeland Security Department is focused on protecting major ports near large cities.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-10-30-boatterror_N.htm?loc=interstitialskip

13. *October 31, The Baltimore Sun* – (Maryland) **Aerial surveillance gets computer boost.** Maryland State Police helicopters were equipped last month with hand-held tablet computers linked to navigation satellites, digital maps and databases with the locations of hospitals, chemical factories and other sensitive facilities. The system, dubbed the Critical Infrastructure Inspection Management System, allows airborne troopers to calculate more efficient flight plans to look for damage or terrorist threats of dams, bridges and other "critical infrastructure" to their daily missions. The new system replaces the stacks of notes, photocopies and road maps that flight crews have used since Sept. 11, 2001 to identify and inspect installations on their critical-infrastructure patrols. "It's targeted for Maryland but designed so any law enforcement agency can use it," said the official, who oversees the homeland protection business area for the software's developer. It will also be adaptable for use in cars, on boats or by personnel on foot.

Source: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/bal-md.surveillance31oct31,0,4429297,print.story>

Postal and Shipping Sector

14. *October 31, The Associated Press* – (Michigan) **Postal officials seek those behind explosive device in Northville.** The U.S. Postal Inspections Service is offering a reward of up to \$50,000 for information leading to those responsible for a package containing an explosive device. The package was placed in a collection box on October 30 in a suburb of Detroit, Michigan. At the post office, the bomb squad disarmed the parcel with a water cannon. Officials are testing the package for fingerprints or DNA.

Source:

<http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071031/NEWS01/3103>

Agriculture and Food Sector

15. *October 31, The Arkansas News Bureau* – (National) **Beef producers defend carbon monoxide in packaging.** Food industry executives told the House Agriculture Committee the process of preserving meat's red color by infusing it with carbon monoxide has no adverse health effects because the air composition in the packaging used in the process is less than a half-percent carbon monoxide. The practice is approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration. Opponents, however, say the practice poses health concerns because even spoiled meat that is packaged this way will maintain its bright red color.

Source:

<http://www.arkansasnews.com/archive/2007/10/31/WashingtonDCBureau/343826.html>

16. *October 30, The Associated Press* – (National) **Recall expanded to three more seafood products.** Three additional products have been added to the recall of smoked salmon dip after a Georgia Agriculture Department inspector found listeria bacteria in a 7.5-ounce package of Kroger Smoked Salmon Dip. These newly added products are: 7.5-ounce packages of Kroger Cajun Salmon Dip, marked "Use by 04NOV2007A LN3" and "Use By 04NOV2007B LN3," 7.5-ounce packages of Kroger Southern Crab Dip, marked "Use by 04NOV2007A LN3" and "Use By 04NOV2007B LN3," and 7.5-ounce containers of Kroger Sun Dried Tomato Crab, marked "Use By 24OCT2007A LN3."

Source: <http://www.wavy.com/Global/story.asp?S=7286430&nav=23ii>

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Water Sector

17. *October 31, The Gainesville Times* – (Georgia) **288 days of water: Tests show deep water in lake is easily treatable.** An official with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said water samples collected more than 125 feet below the current surface of Lake Lanier in Georgia have been tested and shown to be easily treated to good drinking quality. An official with the corps said that "The chemical makeup of the water could easily be reduced to acceptable drinking water levels. You can do that by conventional treatment methods and most of the plants that are online today could treat this water for public consumption." The state of Georgia and the corps have each offered differing predictions for the amount of water in Lanier. The state has said there is about a two-month supply of water in the lake, while the corps has said that even without any additional rainfall there is a 288-day supply.

Source: <http://www.gainesvilletimes.com/news/article/916/>

18. *October 30, Palm Beach Post* – (Florida) **Scrutiny of WPB water plant ordered.** The Palm Beach County Health Department has ordered the city to hire independent experts to help assess and fix the city's water treatment plant after recent fecal bacteria contamination led to a 10-day boil-water order. The Palm Beach County Health

Department has ordered the city to hire independent experts to help assess and fix the city's water treatment plant. Health department officials said it is rare for such evaluations to be ordered, but the department director stated that "it has reached a critical juncture and something has to be done immediately." The city has 30 days to assemble the team, which is likely to include consultants, academics, and operators from other water plants.

Source:

http://www.palmbeachpost.com/localnews/content/local_news/epaper/2007/10/30/s1a_wpb_water_1030.html?cxtype=rss&cxsvc=7&cxcac=76

19. *October 30, The Business Journal of Phoenix* – (Arizona) **EPA cites S. Arizona utility over water contamination.** An Arizona mortgage company was fined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for repeated disregard of metal contamination in its drinking water. The company failed to monitor the drinking water of 50 residents for lead, copper, and nitrates, as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act. They also did not notify their customers of the contamination once it was discovered. This is the second time in two years that the company has not complied with the act. EPA officials referred to the violations as "continued and flagrant." The Arizona Corporation Commission placed the utility in receivership following continued violations, handing control to an interim operator.

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/phoenix/stories/2007/10/29/daily22.html>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

20. *October 31, Newsday* – (New York) **Tests of bird flu vaccine begin at Stony Brook.** Researchers at Stony Brook University Medical Center have begun a clinical study of a phase 1 experimental vaccine, made by Vical, Inc. of San Diego, for the H5N1 strain of bird flu. Volunteers are being recruited for experimental doses, which are administered in two shots several weeks apart. They will be started off with a low dose and there is a safety analysis at each point in the trial. The vaccine is unlike previous vaccines because it is composed only of DNA derived from one of the two key surface proteins on H5N1 and manufactured using genetic technology. A doctor at the University of Rochester said genetic technology would allow pharmaceutical companies to ramp up production faster in the event of a flu pandemic. He led the country's first test of a bird flu vaccine two years ago. The vaccine cannot cause infection.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/suffolk/ny-hsflu315439385oct31,0,6790542.story>

21. *October 31, The New York Times* – (International) **Chemicals flow unchecked from China to drug market.** According to an article in the *New York Times*, pharmaceutical ingredients exported from China are often made by chemical companies that are neither certified nor inspected by Chinese drug regulators. Because the chemical companies are not required to meet minimal drug-manufacturing standards, there is little to stop them from exporting unapproved, adulterated or counterfeit ingredients, which many do. The substandard formulations made from those ingredients often end up in pharmacies in developing countries and for sale on the Internet, where more Americans are turning for

cheap medicine. At an October pharmaceutical industry trade show in Milan, Italy *The New York Times* identified at least 82 Chinese chemical companies negotiating deals. They all said they made and exported pharmaceutical ingredients -- yet not one was certified by the State Food and Drug Administration in China. Though the Chinese government has been aware of this problem since at least the mid-1990s, Chinese regulatory agencies have failed to stop their chemical companies from exporting drug products. American and Chinese health officials held their first high-level meeting to discuss the issue in May, and hope to sign a memorandum of agreement in December. "The Chinese have finally come to the realization that their regulatory system needs repair," said the director of international affairs for the Department of Health and Human Services. Still, change will be difficult since Chinese authorities may not have enough investigators to weed out the many small chemical companies that are making drug ingredients and since some of the companies accused of selling counterfeit drugs are owned by the Chinese government itself.

Source:

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/31/world/asia/31chemical.html?pagewanted=4&_r=1&ref=business

22. *October 30, Prime News Wire* – (National) **U.S. health system is unprepared for large-scale disaster, warns PricewaterhouseCoopers.** "Those on the front line in a disaster – hospitals, medical personnel, public health officials and local emergency workers – will be unprepared to seamlessly handle a surge of patient casualties or to orchestrate a timely, cohesive recovery effort," concludes a report issued today by PricewaterhouseCoopers' Health Research Institute on the state of the nation's health system preparedness for disaster. The report is based on "extensive interviews with nearly 50 leading policymakers, a survey of almost 250 health care executives and practitioners and a poll of 1,000 American adults." It finds that, despite progress since 9/11 and nearly \$8 billion in federal funding for emergency preparedness activities performed by healthcare facilities and agencies, the medical response to a natural or man-made disaster or an act of terror remains sporadic and disconnected. More specifically, among a number of conclusions, the report found that a number of cities lack adequate facilities and high percentages health care professionals lack the procedural knowledge and capability necessary to deal with a large scale disaster. The report also found that "the chain of command is hampered at the local level because of lack of consensus and breakdowns in communication." This is because in many states both the governor and local government are authorized to order an evacuation. This can be confusing, especially for healthcare facilities which want to avoid evacuating patients. A full copy of the report along with a number of recommendations is available at www.pwc.com/hri.

Source: <http://www.primenewswire.com/newsroom/news.html?d=129997>

23. *October 30, Agence France Presse* – (National) **Halloween costume teeth pulled from U.S. shops due to lead fears.** On Tuesday, Factory Card and Party Outlet pulled hundreds of sets of Halloween costume teeth from sale amid fears they could contain excessive levels of lead. The lead content in paint on certain sets of teeth was 7 percent, or about 100 times the allowable US standard. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) will conduct its own test before ordering a recall, but a spokeswoman said that the CPSC is

working “closely and urgently with the company involved.”

Source: http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5ggsxJEsR_axC4o3ELULuCz9jXS2g

Government Facilities Sector

24. *October 31, The Hill* – (District of Columbia) **Senate buildings evacuated.** The Senate Hart and Dirksen Office Buildings were evacuated the afternoon of October 31. At least four fire trucks and an ambulance arrived. Senate staffers informed *The Hill* that this was not a planned drill. The U.S. Capital Police spokeswoman said in an e-mail, “Evacuating Hart & Dirksen due to confirmed fire & audible alarm. Fire near sh-b01.”
Source: <http://thehill.com/leading-the-news/senate-buildings-evacuated-2007-10-31.html>
25. *October 31, The Argus Leader* – (South Dakota) **Reported spill forces evacuation at Tri-Valley High.** Students were dismissed from a South Dakota high school on October 30 after the school was notified by the state Health Department that it had received a report of a mercury spill there. The county hazardous materials team arrived after the students left to inspect the school and found nothing, according to the secondary principal.
Source:
<http://www.argusleader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071031/NEWS/710310313/1001>

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Emergency Services Sector

26. *October 31, The Washington Times* – (National) **Health system found unready for terror.** The nation’s public health system is not prepared to handle the mass casualties that would result from an act of terrorism, according to a study released yesterday. PricewaterhouseCoopers’ Health Research Institute, a New York think tank that provides advice to doctors and hospitals, found that funds are insufficient to develop an effective response to a disaster. “We tend to think of such large-scale disasters as one-off events, yet a major disaster has occurred every week on average in the U.S. for the past 10 years,” said a rep from PricewaterhouseCoopers. “The American public is relying on a fragmented medical system to miraculously mount a swift, well-orchestrated response. Until further planning takes place, we should not be surprised if the system fails next time,” he said. In the six years since the September 11, 2001 terror attacks, Congress spent \$7.7 billion on disaster-preparedness initiatives by public health agencies. Those funds are not just shrinking, they are going in the wrong direction, according to the report. Specifically, hospital preparedness funding has declined steadily -- dropping to \$766 million in 2006 from more than \$850 million in 2005 -- while funding for the national stockpile of emergency medicines doubled to about \$620 million in 2007. Current funding levels allow eligible hospitals to receive federal grants of up to \$82,500 this year. Hospitals that receive the money are expected to arrange a communications system, a bed-tracking system and an evacuation plan, among other requirements. But hospital officials responding to the report said bringing their facilities into compliance with federal

standards linked to the grants is too difficult.

Source: [http://www.emsresponder.com/web/online/Top-EMS-News/Health-System-Found-Unready-for-Terror/1\\$6456](http://www.emsresponder.com/web/online/Top-EMS-News/Health-System-Found-Unready-for-Terror/1$6456)

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Information Technology

27. *October 31, Computerworld* – (National) **Storm Trojan dupes users with dancing Halloween jig.** The Storm Trojan were flooding mailboxes with a Halloween spam blitz, security companies said Wednesday morning, just the latest example of the bot-building malware's use of events to dupe people into infecting their PCs. The newest campaign arrives in messages with subject heads such as "Dancing Bones" and "The most amazing dancing skeleton," said U.K.-based Sophos Plc. in an alert posted to its site. The messages include a link to a malicious URL posing as a Halloween-themed site; once there, users can click on a file, "halloween.exe," which purports to be a dancing skeleton game, but which actually fires off Storm in the background. Visitors running unpatched machines can also be hit by Storm after a multi-strike exploit package pings the PC for vulnerabilities, and if it finds one, compromises the computer and as the slips in Storm. "This is just the latest incarnation of the poisoned e-card attack, also known as Storm, which has dominated the malware scene for months," a senior technology consultant at Sophos said in a statement. "The gang responsible are experts at choosing topical disguises or crafting alluring e-mails," he said.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9044942&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

28. *October 31, Computerworld* – (National) **Researchers give Leopard security low marks.** Security experts said the features that Apple Inc. added to Leopard look were nearly useless. And those features will not protect Mac users when they log onto the Internet, they said. Apple touts more than a dozen new security features and tools in Leopard, from anti-exploit memory randomization and an application defense dubbed sandboxing, to a guest account for shared machines and tighter control over input managers, long-abused operating system components that could be used by hackers to jack Macs. Some of the features, like the new restrictions on input managers, were hailed, but security vendors claimed that Apple has left much room for future improvement in the internet security applications.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9044919&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

29. *October 30, IDG News Service* – (National) **Audio-spam pitch rode eight-figure Storm wave.** The Storm Worm botnet network may be shrinking in size, but it has managed to send 15 million audio spam messages in October, according to the antispam vendor MessageLabs. The messages didn't seem to be particularly effective. Recipients had to first click on an attachment -- usually given a misleading name like beatles.mp3 or Britney.mp3 -- to hear the stock pitch, which featured a robotic voice advising people to

invest in online car seller Exit Only. This kind of scam, called “pump-and-dump,” tries to nudge up the price of penny stocks by a cent or two, giving the spammers a window to make a quick buck by selling the stock before it crashes. Spammers have been delivering their messages in different formats, including .pdf and Excel files, over the past few years as part of a cat-and-mouse game with spam blockers. This latest move to MP3 spam is the latest development in this battle, observers say. The spam run began on October 17, and lasted about 36 hours, using infected computers in the Storm Worm network to send out the e-mails, MessageLabs said in a statement released Tuesday. The spam sounded strange and warbly because the voice in the message was “synthesized using a very low compression rate of 16KHz to keep the overall file size small, at around 50 KB, to avoid detection,” the company said.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9044859&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

30. *October 30, Computerworld* – (National) **Hartford Financial misplaces back-up tapes with personal data on policy holders.** The Hartford Financial Services Group Inc. has notified about 237,000 policy holders of a potential compromise of their personal data. The warning followed the loss of three backup tapes containing the names, addresses, Social Security numbers and driver's license numbers of customers of the company's personnel lines claims center. The tapes were discovered to be missing on Sept. 27. So far, there is no evidence that the tapes were stolen or that the information has been misused, a company spokeswoman said. The company does not know if the tapes were misplaced while in transit to another location or if they went missing inside the company. But the information contained on them could only be read with “the use of sophisticated and expensive equipment,” she added. The Hartford breach is similar to scores of others in recent years involving the loss or theft of computers and media containing sensitive personal data. Security analysts have recommended that companies use encryption to mitigate potential data loss in such situations. Many companies that have been reluctant to do so because of cost concerns end up paying significantly more in notification and other costs when a breach occurs, analysts have previously noted.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9044801&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

31. *October 31, RCR Wireless News* – (National) **New bill would outlaw sale of cell phone numbers.** A U.S. congressman introduced legislation today to ban the sale of cellphone numbers by third parties without the consent of wireless subscribers. “This legislation is not just about protecting the privacy of your cellphone number against unsolicited calls being charged to your account,” he said. “This is a security risk to every wireless subscriber because the information being sold often includes your personal credit history, including access to a person’s parents’ names and numbers, spouse’s names and numbers, past ten residences, and other personal identification information used in identity theft cases.” The Consumer Cellphone Number Distribution Protection Act of 2007 would be enforceable if the cellphone number is not already publicly available and was obtained by the discloser as a condition of completing a commercial transaction. The cellphone industry attempted to create an opt-in directory several years ago, but the effort failed because of congressional privacy concerns, differences among major carriers and other factors.
Source:
<http://www.rcrnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071031/FREE/71031004/1005/allnews>
32. *October 30, Network World* – (National) **New cross-site scripting attack targets VoIP.** Security researchers have found a way to execute cross-site scripting attacks through VoIP clients, introducing a dangerous new threat almost no one is guarding against, according to vendor Secure Computing Corp. “Few [people], if anyone, bother filtering the VoIP communications happening over SIP because they don’t want any performance degradation. Hence, these types of attacks are going to grow,” said the vice president of strategic accounts at Secure Computing. VoIP desktop clients using the Session Initiation Protocol, or SIP, are the problem area, he added. Security researchers discovered the flaw on October 8 and posted a proof-of-concept code on the Internet describing the vulnerability, which they found in a Linksys VoIP product. Secure Computing said it is not yet aware of the attack being used against real users but said it is just a matter of time now that the proof of concept is out there. This particular cross-site scripting attack could be used to install software on a PC allowing hackers to record and listen to VoIP phone calls, said the Secure Computing rep. For example, a financially motivated hacker might listen to the conversations of the chief financial officer at a large public company toward the end of a quarter to learn information useful in stock trading. The same attack could also target mass audiences by installing keyloggers that steal usernames, passwords and other information that could help a criminal raid a bank account, he said.
Source:
http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9044703&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

Commercial Facilities Sector

33. *October 31, WHEC 10 Rochester* – (New York) **Bomb scare on Durham St.** At 12:50am officers responded to a report of two loud explosions or guns shots in Rochester, New York. Upon arrival, officers noticed smoke in the air but no obvious signs of fire. Two explosive devices were found in the immediate area. As a precaution, two homes were evacuated and the neighborhood quarantined. Bomb squad personnel responded to the scene and secured the devices. There were no injuries reported.
Source: <http://www.whec.com/article/stories/S241848.shtml?cat=566>
34. *October 30, The Associated Press* – (Virginia) **Warplane drops fake practice bomb.** On Tuesday, an inert, 10-pound practice bomb fell from an F/A-18C Hornet jet fighter heading to Oceana Naval Air Station, the Navy said. It scraped a warehouse's concrete exterior wall in Virginia Beach, causing "extremely minimal damage," a Navy spokesman said. No one was hurt. The jet was returning from a training mission. A Navy board will investigate and determine whether the pilot should be punished.
Source: http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5i722PWOjbl1JPcZgKUSNIMQ_XRugD8SJPH100

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

35. *October 31, The Salt Lake Tribune* – (Utah) **93 sign House letter urging ban on off-highway vehicles in Utah wilderness.** On Tuesday, 93 members of the House of Representatives sent a letter urging the federal government to block off-highway vehicle use in some of Utah's most remote lands. The letter, backed by several environmental groups, argued that cultural and archaeological treasures might be damaged. The debate is part of a larger conflict over new federal land-use plans nationwide. The Bureau of Land Management has released drafts of travel-management plans covering millions of acres of wilderness area in Utah, and they hope to finalize these plans by next year.
Source: http://www.sltrib.com/News/ci_7327635
36. *October 29, The Daily News* – (Washington) **Commissioners rethink national park proposal.** The commissioners of Cowlitz County in Washington are asking for the input of the public regarding a plan to make Mount St. Helens a national park. Currently, the 110,000 acre national volcanic monument is part of the Gifford-Pinchot National Forest. Supporters of the transfer, which requires an act of Congress, point to budget cuts and the imminent closure of a visitor's center as problems that could be rectified as national parks are better funded. Opponents raise concerns about what impact national park air quality standards might have on area mills and that national forests allow more access and hunting than national parks.
Source: http://www.tdn.com/articles/2007/10/29/area_news/news11.txt

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Dams Sector

37. *October 30, Gladwin County Record* – (Michigan) **Repairs to be made to dam at Sugar Springs.** Gladwin County, Michigan will pay approximately \$30,000 for emergency repairs to the dam on Lake Lancer. Recent tests found a 7 by 6 foot piece of cement missing from a panel of the dam, exposing the underlying rebar. There is currently no leakage at the dam, but the damage could result in a leak if not fixed. Repairs should be completed by winter.
Source: http://www.gladwinmi.com/record/?section_id=1&story_id=49522
38. *October 30, KGET 17* – (California) **Supervisors briefed on theoretical dam collapse aftermath.** Lake Isabella dam in California has been on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' high-priority projects list for over a year due to an unacceptably high-level of seepage from the dam. In addition, the dam sits on an active fault line. On October 30, engineers presented county supervisors with an updated map showing how a dam collapse would affect areas downstream.
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21554174/>

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